



COUNTRY FACT SHEET

Thailand

Pre-disaster IKONOS Image: January 13, 2003.



Post-disaster IKONOS Image: December 29, 2004.



Pre (top) and post-disaster images of Koa Lak, Phang-nga, Thailand.(December 26, 2004)

Tsunami Impacts

The December 26, 2004 tsunami impacted the Andaman coast of Thailand at Phuket, Pang-nga, Krabi, Trang, Satoon, and Ranong killing over 8,200 Thais and foreign tourists. As an immediate response to this tragedy, Thailand formed the Committee on Study of the Disaster Early Warning System and established the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC).



US IOTWS Program Activities in Thailand

Through a collaborative effort of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and leading technical agencies of the U.S. Government, the US Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program is implementing a number of activities in the five countries most affected in December 2004 tsunami disaster, including Thailand. The goal of the program is to support international efforts of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) to establish an operational end-to-end regional tsunami/multi-hazard warning system. Some selected activities include the following:

Improving Tsunami and Earthquake Detection, Forecasting, and Warning

- Technical training on seismology and tsunami detection and analysis in partnership with NDWC and the IOC.
- Technical support to repair, upgrade, and install seismic and GPS instruments in partnership with the Department of Mineral Resources.
- Technical cooperation on the installation and maintenance of Deep Ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunami (DART) buoys.
- Conceptual design for updating national Global Telecommunications System components, data processing, and logistics in the Thai Meteorological Department in partnership with World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA).
- Technical support to upgrade a sea level station in Kao Lak, Phang-nga.
- Field training for scientists on identifying evidence of historic tsunamis.

Building Capacity for Disaster Management and Warning Communications

- Technical support and training to develop the Tsunami Alert Rapid Notification System (TARNS) in partnership with NDWC.

Thailand Country Coordinator

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- Development of Concept of Operation (CONOPS) in relation to relevant information providers and intergovernmental organizations that improves analysis and decision-making processes related to the early warning system.
- Policy and institutional assessment to strengthen overall national emergency management organizations and systems.

Building Disaster Preparedness through Community Resilience

- Implementation of a Coastal Community Resilience (CCR) initiative to mobilize local preparedness champions and promote standard guidelines and training tools region-wide (including Thailand) for cities, villages, and the tourism industry.



Thai participant shows the communication plan during second TARN workshop

Small Grants to Non-Governmental Organizations

- Asian Institute of Technology to develop capacity building of coastal communities on coastal mitigation.
- Save Andaman Network and East Tennessee State University for building community capacity and technical assistance to effective response to tsunami warning and other hazards.
- Chulalongkorn University for conducting workshops on earthquake and tsunami education for Phang-nga coastal communities.
- World Wildlife Fund for strengthening community resilience and coral reef management in Had Thai Muang Marine National Park, Phang-nga.
- D-TRAC for Last Mile Communications Inventory in the south of Thailand.

Other Regional Efforts Benefiting Thailand

Through the IOC framework, the US IOTWS Program is also supporting:

- Interim warnings to the Indian Ocean from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) until the IOTWS is fully established.
- Development of the overall conceptual design of the IOTWS.
- Regional/national tsunami warning center concept of operations compendium to assist countries planning to establish national tsunami warning centers.
- Development and dissemination of tsunami propagation computer models.
- Support for coastal inundation hazard and vulnerability modeling and mapping.
- Establishment of an International Tsunami Training Institute (ITTI) through a US-Asia-UN partnership.

For more information please visit www.us-iotws.gov.

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About the US Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program

The US IOTWS Program is part of the international effort to develop tsunami warning system capabilities in the Indian Ocean following the December 2004 tsunami disaster. The US program adopts an “end-to-end” approach—addressing regional, national, and local aspects of a truly functional warning system—along with multiple other hazards that threaten communities in the region. In partnership with the international community, national governments, and other partners, the US program offers technology transfer, training, and information resources to strengthen the tsunami warning and preparedness capabilities of national and local stakeholders in the region. For more information please visit www.us-iotws.gov.